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VICTIMS SOUGHT IN "HELP WANTED" SCAM

False Employment Ads Result in Criminal Conviction.

In order to assist victims to get their money back, the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit is looking for consumers who may have paid hundreds of dollars in a "Help Wanted" scam. The perpetrator of the scam, Allen Kane, doing business as So. Cal. Association of Security Professionals, pled no contest to six misdemeanor charges including theft and false advertising, following an investigation by the City Attorney's Office that stemmed from citizen complaints. As part of his sentence, Kane must pay back anyone who was a victim of his false advertising for security and loss prevention jobs.

Criminal charges were filed against Kane after four citizens complained they attempted to apply for the jobs Kane advertised, but instead were required to pay Kane \$300 to attend a training class. After doing so, Kane gave them a list of retail stores they could contact about jobs. Many of the stores were not hiring.

In addition to paying restitution to victims, Kane was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to complete ten days of Public Work Service by San Diego Municipal Court Judge Perry Christison.

City Attorney Casey Gwinn cautioned those looking for jobs through "Help Wanted" advertisements to be wary about paying any money to get a job. "We will investigate and prosecute those who prey on the unemployed through false and misleading advertising and other unlawful and deceptive business practices," said Gwinn.

Anyone who believes he or she is a victim of Kane's false advertising should call the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit at 533-5660.

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